

Local CSHCS Colleagues:

The Michigan Department of Community Health, Bureau of Family and Maternal Child Health (BFMCH) has been engaged in training and activities over the past three years focused on reducing racial disparities in infant mortality in Michigan. These activities are a part of the Practices to Reduce Infant Mortality through Equity (PRIME) project. PRIME is a 3 1/2 -year, W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded project to enhance the capacity of BFMCH to reduce racial disparities in infant mortality between Blacks and Whites and between American Indians and Whites in Michigan. PRIME aims to provide resources, staff training, and technical assistance to staff within BFMCH to impact institutional practices and policy changes. Work within PRIME builds on resources and lessons learned from collaborations with local public health, professional consultants, and university partners.

The Children's Special Health Care Services Division is within BFMCH and over the next few months our staff will participate in a series of Health Equity Learning Labs that have been developed by PRIME. The Learning Labs are designed for state CSHCS staff to individually and collectively develop action plans that will strengthen the application of a health equity framework to the future operation of CSHCS. As BFMCH is working to make changes in our institutional policies and practices we believe it is critical to invite you to join us in this process. We encourage you to participate in the Health Equity Learning Labs with our state CSHCS staff. The Learning Labs will take place once monthly from January-May in 2-4 hours sessions. Details on the dates, times and locations can be found on the attachment. There is no cost for the Learning Labs. We have space to register 10 local CSHCS staff on a first come first served basis. We recognize that all of the Learning Labs will be in the Lansing area and that for many local health departments the travel distance makes this opportunity prohibitive. For those local health departments within 90 minutes of Lansing, we encourage your participation.

**Please notify Brenda Jegede, PRIME Project Coordinator, at [jegedeb@michigan.gov](mailto:jegedeb@michigan.gov) or 517-335-9483 by Friday, January 3, 2014** to register to attend the Learning Labs. Once your staff has confirmed their registration to attend the Learning Labs, information on the prerequisites for the sessions will be provided.

We ask that you would share this opportunity with others on your staff that might be interested. We value input from our local CSHCS partners and hope that you will decide to take advantage of this training and learning opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lonnie D. Barnett

Director, Children's Special Health Care Services Division  
Bureau of Family, Maternal, and Child Health  
Michigan Department of Community Health  
Lewis Cass Building, 6th Floor  
320 S. Walnut  
Lansing, MI 48913  
[www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs)

Phone: (517) 241-7186  
FAX: (517) 241-8970

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